REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 23, 2005. Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 8, 10 and 12 are in independent form. Claims 14-35 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent No. 5,553,609 (*Chen*) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,943,478 (*Dean*), 5,032,979 (*Hecht*) and 6,097,429 (*Seeley*).

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a server for making it possible for a remote client, the client being of a plurality clients to control an image sensing device via a communication medium and for controlling to transfer video information, which has been captured by the image sensing device, to the plurality of clients via the communication medium. The server includes an input device and a notification device. The input device selectively enters a first request or a second request generated by a user different from any one of the plurality of clients. The first request is for acquiring information identifying the plurality of clients to which the video information captured by the image sensing device is transferred. The second request is for acquiring information identifying the remote client to which the server gives a control privilege to control the optical system and orientation of the image sensing device remotely. The notification device, responsive to the entered request, reports the information identifying the plurality of clients or the remote client to the user.

Among other important features of Claim 1 is that the server gives to one of plural clients (a remote client) a control privilege to control the optical system and orientation

of the image sensing device, remotely and exclusively, reports information identifying the plurality of clients that receive the video captured by the image sensing device when the first requested by a user different from any of the plurality of clients, and reports information identifying the remote client when a second request is entered by the user.

Chen relates to a computer-based remote visual monitoring system intended for in-home patient care, using ordinary telephone lines. A supervisory center has access to patient records, and databases, for assigning patients to appropriate health care professionals, and for other tasks. Both master monitoring computers (linked to the control center) and slave monitoring computers (in patient homes) are provided, and real-time two-way communication is intended to be possible, via audio/visual equipment in the home. For example, scheduling information from the control center 22 (see Fig. 7) to a plurality of Master Monitoring Stations 24, where the scheduling information is used by the latter stations for linking with the Slave Monitoring Stations 26. Nothing in this (or elsewhere in *Chen*) is seen to teach or suggest giving a control privilege to control an optical system and orientation of an image sensing device remotely, and exclusively, as recited in Claim 1. In addition, nothing in Chen is seen to teach or suggest entering a first request for acquiring information identifying the plurality of clients to which the video information captured by the image sensing device is transferred, or a second requesting for acquiring information identifying the remote client to which the server gives a control privilege to control the optical system and orientation of the image sensing device, as recited in Claim 1.

Moreover, even if *Dean* and *Hecht* are deemed to show all that they are cited for, such would not provide what is missing from *Chen* as a reference against Claim 1. *Dean*, in particular, is silent as to control of an image sensing device, and even if *Hecht* is

deemed to teach a server detecting an event that has occurred in each client by using an audit trail of the clients, and managing clients by remotely mounting an audit file generated and held by the respective clients (see Fig. 4), since the *Hecht* server does not control the event that has occurred in the respective clients, the server cannot control any of the clients exclusively, and certainly does not teach or suggest giving control privilege to a single client exclusively as recited in Claim 1. Furthermore, neither *Dean* nor *Hecht* teach or suggest entering a first request for acquiring information identifying the plurality of clients to which the video information captured by the image sensing device is transferred, or a second request for acquiring information identifying the remote client to which the server gives a control privilege to control the optical system and orientation of the image sensing device, as recited in Claim 1.

Seeley does not remedy the deficiencies of *Chen*, *Dean* and *Hecht*. *Seeley* discusses a system in which, when a site control unit (SCU) at a site being monitored identifies input from a local sensor as indicating the presence of an intruder, the SCU can open a communications channel with a central station (cols. 8 and 9; Fig. 1). An operator at the central station can, if desired, instruct first one, then another camera at the site to activate, and so conduct a remote walk-through of the site. Applicant has not found anything in *Seeley* to suggest that the operator, or any entity or element at the central station, or elsewhere, sends a request to be apprised as to which of plural remote clients has control of a remote camera. *Seeley* also does not teach or suggest giving a control privilege to control an optical system and orientation of an image sensing device remotely, and exclusively, or entering a request for acquiring information identifying the plurality of clients to which the video information captured by the image sensing device is transferred, as recited in Claim 1.

That claim is therefore believed to be clearly allowable over all four patents, taken separately or in any possible combination (assuming that any such combination would even be a permissible one).

Independent Claims 8, 10, and 12 are method, storage medium, and system claims, respectively, corresponding to server Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

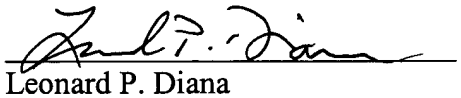
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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